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The instructions issued by the Central Committee of the PMR specifically emphasized the extreme importance and great responsibility of selecting candidates for party membership. This task can be fulfilled only when all activists and party members are thoroughly familiar with the principles and criteria of party selection. Party members must, in addition, receive a thorough indoctrination in the gross errors which occurred in the past in the selection of party members.

The Baia-Mare Regiune Party Committee took the following measures to assure that the regiune and raion party actives carry out the instructions of the Central Committee of the PMR for the proper selection of new party members. The bureau of the regiune committee organized 2-3 day seminars for all activists of the regiune and raion committees to study the statute of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the statute of the PMR, the resolution of the plenary session of the Central Committee of the PMR of July 1950, instructions published for the application of the resolution, and the article of Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej entitled "For the Purity of Party Ranks." Raion committee seminars were conducted by members of the regiune committee. All secretaries of primary party organizations in enterprises, institutes, and villages were withdrawn from production for 3 days to participate in the seminars.

Primary party organizations, in turn, were aided by raion committees to raise the level of their meetings, to improve the quality of party teaching, and to raise the political level of leading workers and Stakhanovites. Each party member took part in this campaign by agitation at his enterprise. The bureaus of primary party organizations and union committees mobilized all Stakhanovites, leading workers, party members, and others to enter competitions. As a result, participation in the open meeting of the primary party organization of the Baia-Mare Combine was 90 percent and 70 percent of the workers entered into competitions. The cyclic graph method was introduced at 119 work sites. The number of Stakhanovites rose to 90 and leading workers to 500. Consequently, the Drapelul Rosu mine and the Jozsa Bela Mining Enterprise exceeded plans.

The raion committees instructed primary party organizations that the selection of party candidates must be closely connected with the fight to fulfill the Five-Year Plan in 4 years. By choosing only those workers who overfulfill norms, the primary party organizations guarantee the selection of workers of proven merit.

The Baia-Mare Regiune Party Committee exercises a systematic control over the selection of party candidates by analyzing the manner in which raion committees and party organizations deal with this problem. One of the explanations for the success of the Baia-Mare Nonferrous Metallurgical Combine in the selection of party candidates is the fact that the combine constantly checks this work and aids primary party organizations of the combine in the selection of candidates. For example, the party committee of the combine organized a conference with secretaries of primary party organizations to discuss the best methods for raising the quality of party work and for attracting leading workers and Stakhanovites to the party.

Errors in Candidate Selection

At first the regiune committee did not plan its control over candidate selection nor aid all raion committees in this matter. Consequently, the regiune committee was late in recognizing the existence of grave infractions of the instructions issued by the Central Committee of the PMR, particularly in Satu-Mare and Somcuta-Mare raions. Up to several months ago the committees of these two raions failed to devote enough attention to the selection of party candidates. They failed to check and aid primary party organizations. Activists were not instructed on the statute of the Central Committee of the PMR in regard to

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personnel procurement. Consequently, a number of party organizations in these raions were not sufficiently selective in choosing candidates. The CFR (Cale Ferata Romana, Rumanian Railroads) in Baia-Mare, the timber enterprise in Satu-Mare, and other enterprises made a number of poor choices.

The regiune committee, analyzing the causes of such infractions, ascertained that these raion committees did not take the steps necessary to insure that party activists, secretaries and members of primary party organizations, and others studied the instructions of the Central Committee. As a result, candidates in Guingi and Crucisor villages were chosen in a group from lists which completely disregarded the instructions of the Central Committee of the PMR and violated the Stalinist-Leninist principles. The regiune committee naturally rejected the selections made in this manner.

Agitation for Better Selection

The Baia-Mare Regiune Committee not only adopted stricter measures for the choice of new party candidates in enterprises but set up cycles of lectures on "The Quality of Party Members," "PMR, Advance Guard of the Working Class," and "The Rights and Duties of Communists." Leading workers who were not party members were invited to attend. These lectures aided the nonparty workers to understand better the reason for the party struggle. These lectures resulted in the party membership of leading workers, Stakhanovites, and the best members of the UTM (Uniunea Tineretelor Muncitoreasc, Union of Working Youth) in the Atelierul Central (Central Workshop), Baia-Mare, and the Union plant in Satu-Mare.

Another form of educating the best nonparty workers was to assign them to agitation work in Baia-Mare. They were thus drawn into popularizing the policies of the PMR and the successes of the present regime. The electoral campaign constituted a favorable opportunity for entrusting nonparty workers with tasks connected with the successful fulfillment of party policy. Thousands of nonparty agitators vigorously supported debates on the Draft Constitution and on the platform of the People's Democratic Front.

Another means used to improve political agitation among nonparty workers was the mobilization of mass organizations. Numerous primary party organizations read the instructions of the Central Committee of the PMR to UTM and union organizations. By this means, they persuaded the mass organizations to engage in competitions for the fulfillment of the state plan, for the discovery of internal reserves in enterprises, and for the strengthening of labor discipline.

Furthermore, primary party organizations engaged in the selection of party candidates assigned individual party members the task of contacting and indoctrinating leading workers in the application of party policies. In this manner, raising the political knowledge of leading workers and Stakhanovites was entrusted to the best party members who also were outstanding in production. When the leading workers and Stakhanovites were fully indoctrinated, they realized that their interests and the party struggle were identical. After a number of appeals to the bureau of their primary party organization for membership, they were finally accepted as candidates. This type of indoctrination resulted in applications for party candidacy by the best workers in the regiune: Stakhanovite Petre Sighiartau, initiator of the cyclic graph method in Baia-Mare Regiune, fireman Nicolae Cunovici, who volunteered to fight against the Nazis; and others.

However, a check by the regiune committee revealed that some primary party organizations failed to carry on such an agitation campaign. They merely threw open the doors of the party to all applicants. The poor selection of new party members admits into the party all types of adventurers and hostile elements.

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RESTRICTEDLack of Vigilance

All party members must be especially vigilant in selecting new members and candidates in order to prevent the enemy from sneaking into the party. Everyone must keep in mind the fact that the RPR still has the remnants of the exploiting and kulak classes. These elements are trying in every way to infiltrate the working class. In addition, the American-English monopolies and their faithful servants, the Titoists, are trying to send agents into the country to infiltrate the party and state apparatus. The party is the primary goal of all these enemies.

Experience constantly confirms the necessity of maintaining permanent vigilance. At the Union plant in Satu-Mare, for example, a member of the exploiting class with close ties with the enemies of the regime tried to infiltrate the party. Thanks to the vigilance of party members, this attempt of the enemy failed. Similar cases have occurred in other enterprises in Baia-Mare Regiune.

Most party members are especially watchful when they are solicited for recommendations by would-be candidates. They categorically refuse to give such recommendations to those who are not worthy of being received into the party. In Ferneziu Commune, a former officer, discharged from the party in 1947 for hostile activity, tried to obtain a recommendation; however, party members familiar with his past unmasked him.

There were also cases of party members totally lacking in vigilance and freely giving recommendations for party candidacy to all types of people without being completely sure that those recommended deserved such great trust. For example, party members at the Apa MTS and the CFR in Baia-Mare recommended a former exploiter and a former legionnaire. The Apa MTS brought those party members who had recommended an enemy of the working class before a general meeting of the primary party organization and severely punished them.

There are also cases of primary party organizations and even party organs being totally careless in regard to the defense of the party. Thus, the bureau of the primary party organization of the CMZ (Combinatul Minelor de Zinc, Zinc Mine Combine), Carei Raion, recommended as candidate a man closely connected with kulaks of the area. The Carei Raion Committee actually accepted this selection.

A candidate must be well known and thoroughly investigated to be accepted. The party candidate stage was created primarily to give the candidate the opportunity to know party policy and instructions, and to give the primary party organization an opportunity to study his political and professional qualifications and background. Nevertheless, the mistaken "opinion" that it is not necessary to check up on a party candidate until after his selection is still prevalent in Carei, Sighet, and Somcuta-Mare raions, Baia-Mare Regiune. Andre Mesaros, former first secretary of the Carei Raion Committee, and Victor Pop, chief of the party organization section, the union section, and the UTM section of the Somcuta-Mare Raion Committee, were worried that their primary party organization would have nothing to do if the candidates were investigated before acceptance. The Baia-Mare Regiune Committee is fighting with all its might to put a stop to such extremely harmful "opinions." The regiune committee discharged the first secretary of the Carei Raion Committee because he repeatedly showed a serious lack of vigilance and interest in party work.

Primary party organizations have carefully searched party ranks for unsuitable and hostile elements who may have sneaked into the party. Thus, the primary party organization of the Drapelul Rosu Mine ordered the exclusion from the party of a former innkeeper who concealed his business activities under the mask of party membership. A similar situation occurred in Salinta, Targul-Lapus Raion, where the primary party organization expelled a dubious element who maintained ties with kulaks of the village.

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Party Meetings

In order to protect the party from hostile careerists and unsuitable elements, party meetings for the selection of candidates must be carefully prepared and conducted. The agenda must be made known in advance. The bureau of the primary party organization concerned must hold prior discussions with party members and recommend that they be thoroughly prepared to discuss the candidate. Party members must courageously analyze the good qualities and faults of those selected to be candidates. Good preparation for the party meeting increases the vigilance of party members and includes a thorough check on the candidate's past political activity and environment. Many primary party organizations whose bureaus prepared thoroughly for such meetings discovered candidates to be former exploiters or to have legionnaire backgrounds.

Frequently, however, party members do not know the order of business and cannot prepare for meetings. Debates, consequently, are unsatisfactory and criticism is inadequate. The candidate does not learn what his errors and weaknesses are, nor how to eradicate them. Consequently, unsuitable and even hostile elements enter the party.

Quality Rather Than Numbers

The Baia-Mare Regiune Committee discovered that some party organizations are more concerned with large numbers rather than with the quality of candidates. This is in direct violation of the precepts of Gheorghiu-Dej. Some raion committees, instead of intensifying party political work, put pressure on primary party organizations to increase the number of party candidates. This type of pressure brings about a deterioration in the social composition of the party, in the quality of party membership, and in vigilance over the reliability of members.

Certain raions in Baia-Mare Regiune neglected the quality of candidates. This is well illustrated by the action of the organizational bureau of one enterprise in Satu-Mare. This bureau actually posted an announcement reading, "Anyone Desiring to Enter the Party May Present Himself to the Secretary of the Primary Party Organization." This gross violation of the principles of receiving new party members was fought with vigor by the Baia-Mare Regiune Committee. Since Satu-Mare was repeatedly guilty of extremely grave deviations in this regard, the regiune committee ordered that the recruitment of party members in this raion cease for a time. The regiune committee brought these grave errors before the entire regiune party aktiv for discussion.

The aktiv of the regiune party committee was also severely criticized for neglecting the task of attracting the most advanced workers and technicians to the party, and neglecting the education of proven workers and technicians. Failure to educate workers resulted in a small number of applications for membership. The regiune party committee was criticized because it did nothing to extend the process of selection of candidates to all primary party organizations in enterprises, MTS, state farms, and collectives. The number of candidates for the party was very small in Baia-Mare Regiune, although there are a large number of Stakhanovites and leading workers in the regiune. The regiune party aktiv, in turn, severely criticized the Targu-Lapus, Carei, and Cehul-Silvaniei Raion Committees for failing to encourage worthy workers to become party members.

It is obvious that serious errors exist among primary party organizations in the education of candidates. There are candidates who have received no party assignments, party teaching, or training. A serious example of this is the case

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of candidate Ion Marcus of the wood enterprise in Bicsad, Negresti Raion. The primary party organization of the raion paid no further attention to him after his selection as party candidate. He was given no instructions or teaching. His name was even dropped from the records of the primary party organization and he was given no chance to participate in party life.

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